MARVEL®

4

THE INITIATIVE

FRACTION • KITSON • MORALES • WHITE

THE ORDER™

RATED T+

00411

7 59606 06195 2

DIRECT EDITION

$2.99 US $3.05 CAN

In the aftermath of the civil war that pitted hero against hero, Iron Man, a.k.a. Tony Stark, envisioned a new world order -- one of responsibility and supervision, where super heroes are federally registered and held accountable to the people they protect. As the new director of the peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D., Stark personally took charge, creating the 50-State Initiative: A program placing highly trained super hero teams in each state of the nation. The Order is the first such team. Based in California, it is the crown jewel of the Initiative.

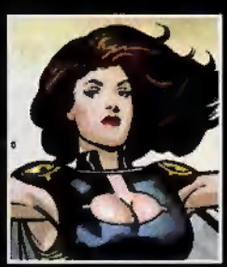
Outstanding Americans carefully recruited from a corps of volunteers, the members of the Order have one thing in common: They were all heroes in the "real" world, in ways both great and small. Rigorously trained in their astonishing new powers, the team is backed by the finest public relations and marketing that money can buy.

WELCOME TO THE ORDER

TONY STARK
IRON MAN

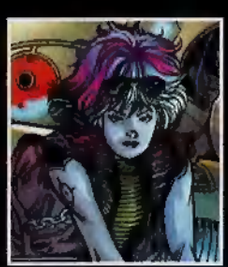
PEPPER POTTS
HERA

HENRY HELLRUNG
ANTHEM

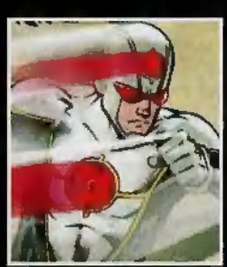


MAGDALENA MARIE
VEDA

DENNIS MURRAY
HEAVY



MULHOLLAND BLACK
MULHOLLAND



JAMES WA
CALAMITY

BECKY RYAN
ARALUNE

MILO FIELDS
SUPERNAUT

ZOBO

After saving the San Gabriel mountains from the volatile Infernal Man, most of the team's starting lineup was dismissed for drinking and partying in violation of their contract's morality and ethics clauses. One of their number, Avona, was found dead on the Los Angeles Metro. Pepper Potts, the Order's homebase leader, asked Mulholland Black to use her sometimes unreliable super-power -- a telepathic link to the collective unconscious around her -- to discover what caused the suspicious death.

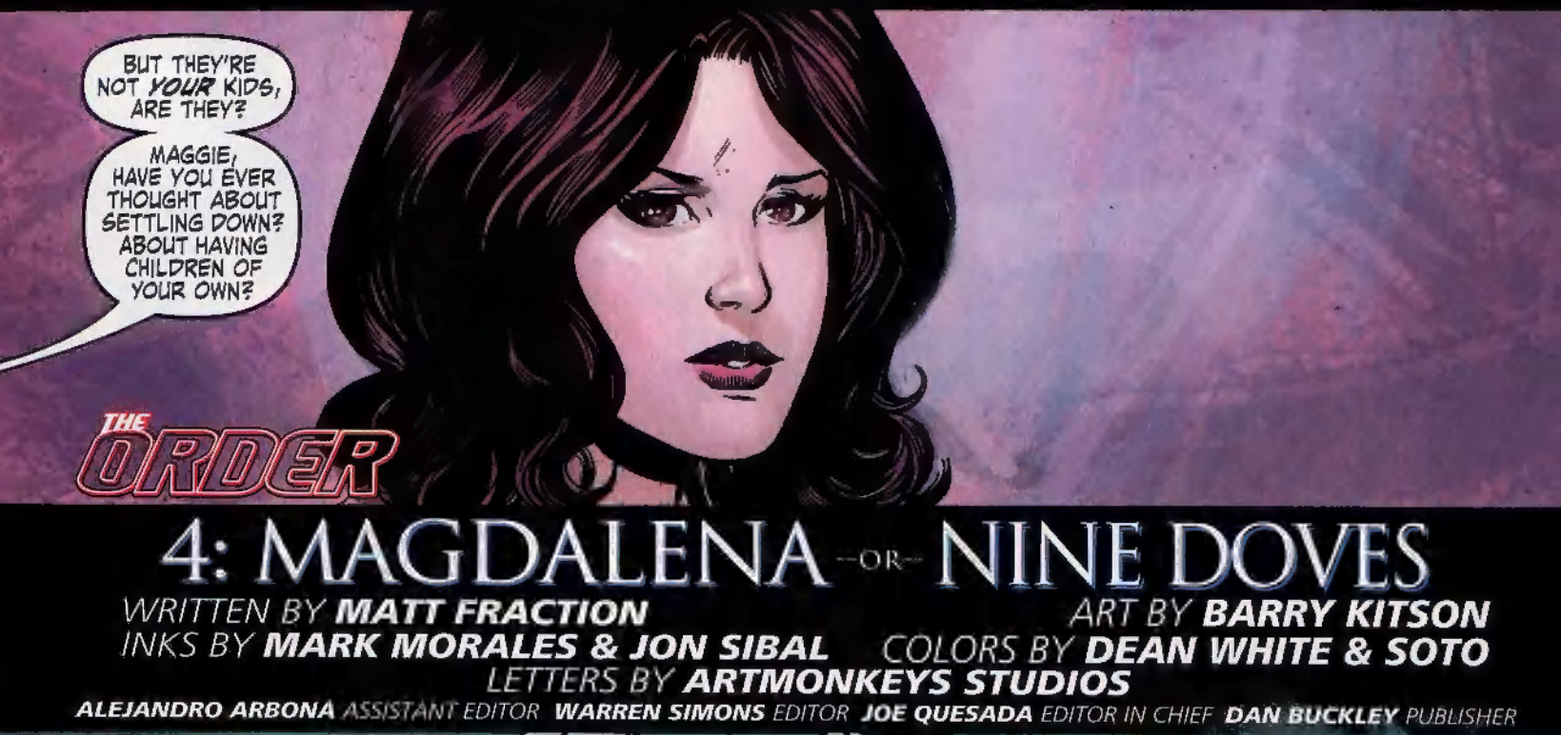
Meanwhile, anxiety over poor performance caused Calamity, the team speedster, to lose his temper -- smack in the middle of fighting back a horde of patchwork cyborg-zombie homeless people, a.k.a. Zobos. Field leader Anthem gave him the day off, and Calamity, feeling punchy and stir-crazy, took the opportunity to show up at the front door of an old acquaintance...the drunk driver who had cost him the use of his legs years earlier...

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

THE ORDER No. 4, December, 2007. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in September by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.05 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

NOO--NOO-EN--NOONTAU--
NEUNTAUBEN. MAGDALENA MARIE NOON-TOW-BEN. GERMAN DAD, MEXICAN MOM. AND IF YOU WERE PLANNING ON ASKING ME WHY I DROPPED IT--
--WELL, YOU JUST ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION.
INDEED I DID. MAGDALENA--
MAGGIE.
MAGGIE, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?
WE HAD TO WRITE A REPORT IN THIRD-GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES ABOUT ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, AND I PICKED KOREA.
AND I LEARNED ABOUT TAE KWON DO, AND I LEARNED ABOUT ORPHANS. AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH BOTH.
THOSE TWO THINGS FASCINATED ME, AS A LITTLE GIRL.
IF YOU WERE TO GO TO THE KOREA OF MY UNDERSTANDING THEN, IT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT HUNGRY CHILDREN KICKING EACH OTHER.
SO.
SO I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, I WANT TO LEARN KARATE, AND HELP THE ORPHANS.
YOU WERE NINE?
I WAS NINE. IT'S A VERY NINE-YEAR-OLD THOUGHT TO HAVE, ISN'T IT?
AND YET, THERE IT WAS. MY "INCITING INCIDENT," IN THE PARLANCE OF THE REALM.
SO I STARTED MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING. I STARTED WINNING CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND BEING SEEN. ONCE I WAS SEEN, I STARTED MODELING.
MODELING LED TO ACTING OPPORTUNITIES, AND WITH MY PHYSICAL BACKGROUND AND ABILITIES--
--SUDDENLY THE STUDIOS HAD AN ACTRESS-MODEL HYPHENATE THAT COULD DO ALL HER OWN STUNTS.

OH YES, OH MY, YES.
AND, LET ME TELL YOU, THE SECOND I STARTED MAKING MONEY--LITERALLY, THE FIRST CHECK WITH A COMMA I EVER CASHED--
--I STARTED THE CHARITY.
THIS WAS HOW I GAMED THE SYSTEM. I DID WHATEVER PAID MOST AND FUNNELED IT INTO... WHAT I WANTED TO BE WHEN I GREW UP.
AND WHEN I STARTED PLAYING AT BEING A DIVA, THEY STARTED PAYING ME EVEN MORE.
MOVIES, MONEY, FAME--ALL OF IT WAS IN SERVICE OF WHAT I ACTUALLY WANTED TO DO.
ORPHANS. KARATE.
PRECISELY.
ONCE I GOT PAID RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY, THE MORE SOMEONE ELSE WANTED TO PAY ME EVEN MORE. THE COLDER I BEHAVED, THE HOTTER I BECAME.
ALL OF IT WENT TO THE KIDS.
I TAUGHT THE KIDS TAE KWON DO. AND I TAUGHT CHARITY.
I WENT AROUND THE WORLD AND HELPED ORPHANS AND HELPED BUILD ORPHANAGES ANYWHERE I COULD.
I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT BEING FAMOUS, AND I ONLY CARED ABOUT BEING RICH IN THAT IT OPENED DOORS I ACTUALLY DID CARE ABOUT.
I ONLY PRETEND I THINK I'M A PRINCESS.
I'M A SIMPLE GIRL AND I LOVE MY KIDS.

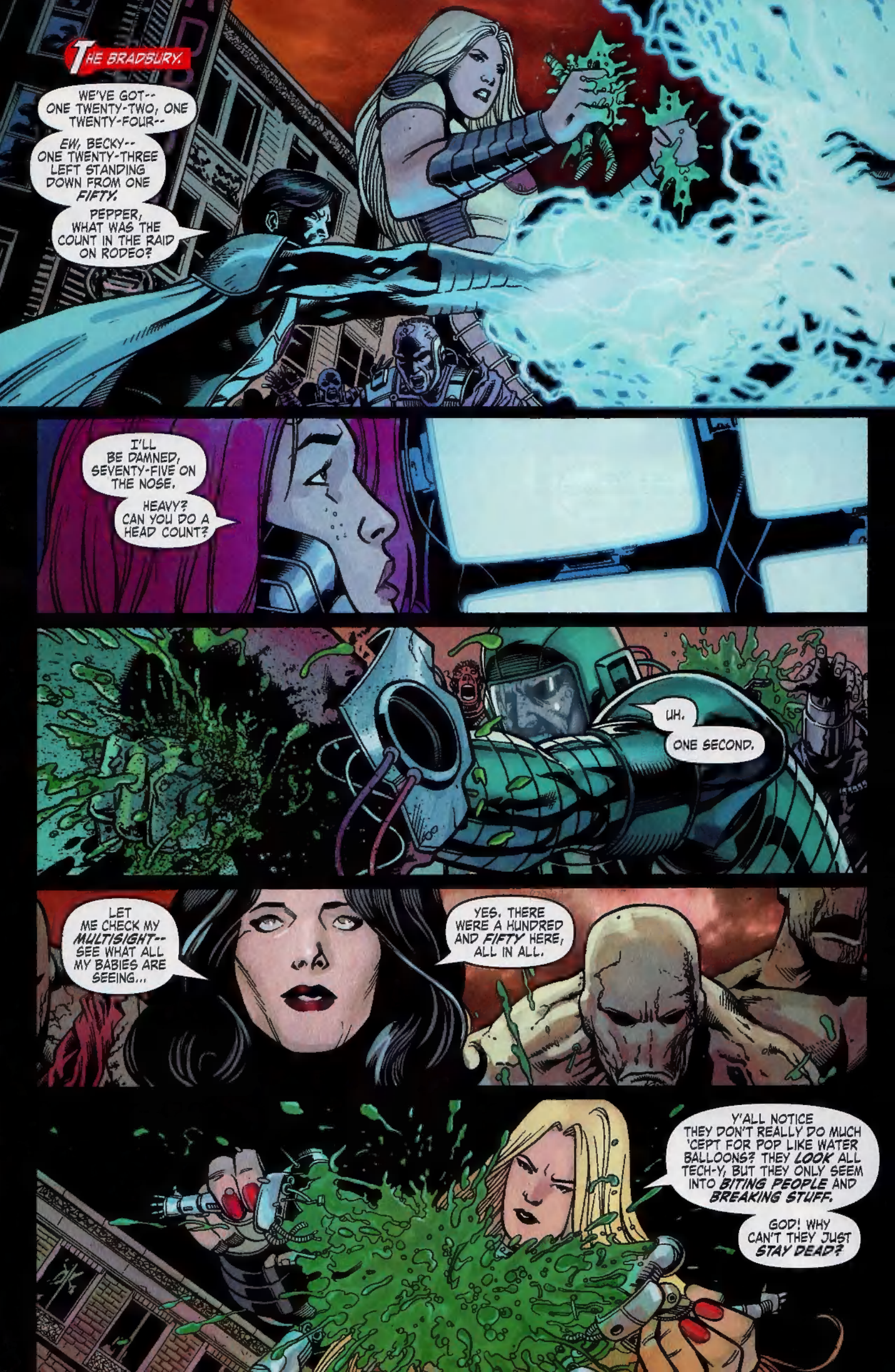

BUT THEY'RE NOT *YOUR* KIDS, ARE THEY?
MAGGIE, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SETTLING DOWN? ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN OF YOUR OWN?
THE ORDER

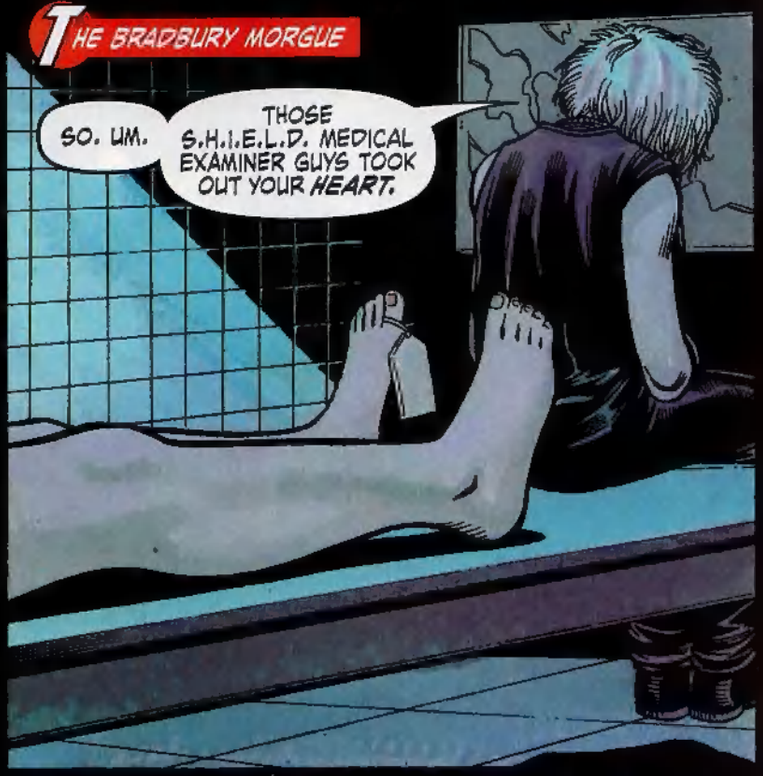
4: MAGDALENA —OR— NINE DOVES

WRITTEN BY **MATT FRACTION**
ART BY **BARRY KITSON**
INKS BY **MARK MORALES & JON SIBAL**
COLORS BY **DEAN WHITE & SOTO**
LETTERS BY **ARTMONKEYS STUDIOS**
ALEJANDRO ARBONA ASSISTANT EDITOR **WARREN SIMONS** EDITOR **JOE QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF **DAN BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER

HAS ANYONE COME UP WITH A KINDER NAME THAN ZOBO YET?
BOTH "ZOMBIE" AND "HOBO" SOMEHOW STRIKE ME AS BEING RATHER INSENSITIVE TO THEIR CONDITION.
"My mother had a slender, small body, but a large heart--a heart so large that everybody's joys found welcome in it, and hospitable accommodation." --Mark Twain
"Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children." --William Makepeace Thackeray, Vanity Fair
RRRARRRGH!
I FELT THAT, YOU UGLY $#%&@#.
"With what price we pay for the glory of motherhood." --Isadora Duncan

YOU REALLY WANT TO SHOW THESE GUYS COMPASSION?
COMPASSION IS ONE THING, HEAVY-- BASIC DIGNITY IS ANOTHER.
AM I CRAZY, OR ARE THERE MORE THAN LAST TIME?
ABSOLUTELY MORE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT MORE ZOBOS ATTACKING CENTURY CITY THAN BEFORE--ANYBODY ELSE SEEING MORE OF 'EM?
CULVER CITY.
SUPERNAUT CONFIRMING THAT, HEAVY. STAND BY FOR LIVE TALLY RESULTS--
OKAY, LIVE TALLY INDICATES THERE'S EXACTLY TWICE AS MANY HERE AS WERE REPORTED BY YOU GUYS IN THE RODEO DRIVE ATTACK YESTERDAY. IF WE'RE GETTING DOUBLE TROUBLE OUT HERE, IT FOLLOWS YOU ARE AS WELL.
IT'S JUST COINCIDENCE, RIGHT?


THE BRADBURY.
WE'VE GOT-- ONE TWENTY-TWO, ONE TWENTY-FOUR--
EW, BECKY-- ONE TWENTY-THREE LEFT STANDING DOWN FROM ONE FIFTY.
PEPPER, WHAT WAS THE COUNT IN THE RAID ON RODEO?
I'LL BE DAMNED, SEVENTY-FIVE ON THE NOSE.
HEAVY? CAN YOU DO A HEAD COUNT?
UH.
ONE SECOND.
LET ME CHECK MY MULTISIGHT-- SEE WHAT ALL MY BABIES ARE SEEING...
YES. THERE WERE A HUNDRED AND FIFTY HERE, ALL IN ALL.
Y'ALL NOTICE THEY DON'T REALLY DO MUCH 'CEPT FOR POP LIKE WATER BALLOONS? THEY LOOK ALL TECH-Y, BUT THEY ONLY SEEM INTO BITING PEOPLE AND BREAKING STUFF.
GOD! WHY CAN'T THEY JUST STAY DEAD?


SO. UM.
THOSE S.H.I.E.L.D. MEDICAL EXAMINER GUYS TOOK OUT YOUR HEART.

I GUESS THEY HAD TO WEIGH IT AND STUFF, AVONA.

AND, I DUNNO, I'M SORRY. YOU WANTED TO BE ON THIS TEAM SO BAD AND YOU DIDN'T DESERVE TO GET MURDERED OR ANYTHING.
I THINK I'D REALLY LIKE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

SO I JUST WANTED TO HOLD IT.
TO SEE IF MY POWERS-- TO SEE IF I COULD--

I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF MAYBE I COULD HOLD YOUR HEART, THEN MAYBE MY CRAPPY PSYCHIC POWERS THAT DON'T ACTUALLY WORK WOULD JUST DECIDE TO WORK OR WHATEVER.

HI.
AHHH!

DURRRR.
CAN WE GET CALAMITY OUT HERE TO WORK CLEANUP?
WE'RE A LITTLE UNDERMANNED, PEPPER...
YOU GAVE HIM THE DAY OFF, ANTHEM.
I'M NOT EVEN REGISTERING HIM ON-SITE.
PAGE HIM BACK, THEN. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO HIM.
HUH. I CAN'T. HE'S ACTUALLY OFF THE GRID.
AW, CRAP.
SUPERNAUT? ANYTHING YOU CARE TO SHARE?
I GOT A BAD FEELING, ANTHEM. AS SOON AS--
HEY, S.H.I.E.L.D.'S HERE.
YOU'RE NO LONGER UNDERMANNED. TA-DA.

I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE NOT CONTAGIOUS --ONE MORE BITE WOUND ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PAPER AND THEY'RE GONNA RUN US OUT OF TOWN ON A RAIL.
ALL RIGHT, TEAM, SPREAD OUT AND CONTAIN THEM. TAKE YOUR CUES FROM THE ORDER ON THE GROUND.
THANK HEAVENS.
LOCAL SEARCH-AND-RESCUE SHOULD BE STAGING NEARBY TO HELP WITH THE DISPLACED AND WOUNDED.
KEEP 'EM COVERED AND KEEP 'EM WORKING.
OKAY, VEDA?
YEAH, HEAVY.
I CAN FEEL IT EVERY TIME ONE OF MY GOLEMS IS DESTROYED. IT JUST--
IT JUST HURTS A LITTLE.
GET THE ONES THAT'RE STILL MOVING TO THE S.H.I.E.L.D. EXOBIONETIC AGENTS THAT'VE BEEN DISPATCHED TO EACH OF YOUR SITES.
HOSE THE REST OF 'EM OFF THE STREETS.

GET 'EM INTO THE LOADING BAY, BOYS.
I WANT YOUR GUYS LOOKING AT THEIR INSIDES BEFORE THEY STOP TWITCHING.
AH--EXCUSE ME?
MR. HELLRUNG? HENRY?
IS IT SAFE?
YES, IT'S SAFE. IT'S VERY SAFE.
IT'S SO SAFE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
OH MY.
LOOK AT THE MESS--THIS IS A DISASTER--
WE'RE HERE, S.H.I.E.L.D.'S HERE, THE OUTBREAK IS BEING CLEANED UP AND MANAGED.
EVERYBODY CAN GO TO SLEEP SAFE AND SOUND.
YOU. CALL. THIS. SAFE?!?
BRADBURY
NO, IT'S NOT, HONEY. IT'S NOT SAFE AT ALL.
YOU PEOPLE HAVE TO LEAVE. CONSIDER THIS NOTIFICATION THAT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEMANDS YOU LEAVE THIS BUILDING IMMEDIATELY.

OKAY THEN, SENIOR STAFF, WHERE ARE WE AT?
HEAVY, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS ZOBO NONSENSE?
I THINK WE'RE [redacted] TESTED. AND I DON'T MEAN [redacted] A SPIRITUAL SORT OF WAY.
WHEN I WAS IN THE SERVICE, IT'D HAPPEN JUST LIKE THIS--LITTLE POKES HERE, LITTLE POKES THERE--SEARCHING FOR CHINKS IN THE ARMOR. NOT TAKING THE KILLSHOT, BUT...
LOOKING FOR IT.
THERE'S A PRECISION TO IT ALL. A MATH.
EACH ATTACK COMES FARTHER AWAY FROM THE LAST, TOO... IF YOU HAD TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF A TEAM LIKE THE ORDER, HOW ELSE COULD YOU DO IT?
THE OUTBREAKS OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME, ROUGHLY. EACH OUTBREAK IS TWICE AS LARGE AS THE ONE BEFORE IT. IT'S ALL VERY MILITARY, ISN'T IT?
BUT WHO? I CAN SEE A HYPOTHETICAL WHY. BUT [redacted] WOULD TRY? WHO COULD TRY?
YOU'RE THE HEAD OF A BRAND-NEW STARK-SANCTIONED SUPER-HERO TEAM. SHORT OF PAINTING A BULL'S-EYE ON THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING TO MATCH THE ONE ON YOUR CHEST, YOU COULDN'T BE A BIGGER TARGET.
WHO WOULDN'T TRY?

...
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, IT SOUNDS BAD.
NEXT?
JAMES IS OFF-GRID AND IT MAKES ME NERVOUS.
I KNOW HE COULD BE CAMPING OR LYING LOW OR-- WHATEVER. I CAN'T FIND HIM, AND I'M VERY, VERY GOOD AT FINDING PEOPLE.
MILO SEEMED TO HAVE A THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, RIGHT? I'LL TALK TO HIM AFTER THE MEETING.
I THINK WE'RE GETTING EVICTED?
A LITTLE?
I HAVE A THING--BECKY HAS A SEX TAPE.
IT'S BEING SAT ON FOR NOW, BUT IT'S OUT THERE, AND IT'LL COME OUT SOON. I'VE DONE ALL I CAN TO KEEP IT QUIET TO BUY US SOME THINKING TIME.
KNOCK KNOCK
UM, HI?
SWORD GIRL'S GHOST TOLD ME ONE OF HER TEAMMATES HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER [redacted], SO WE GOTTA ROUND UP THOSE FIRED GUYS.
DO I HAVE TO DO THIS FOR A YEAR? CAN I QUIT?
BECAUSE I DO. I QUIT.

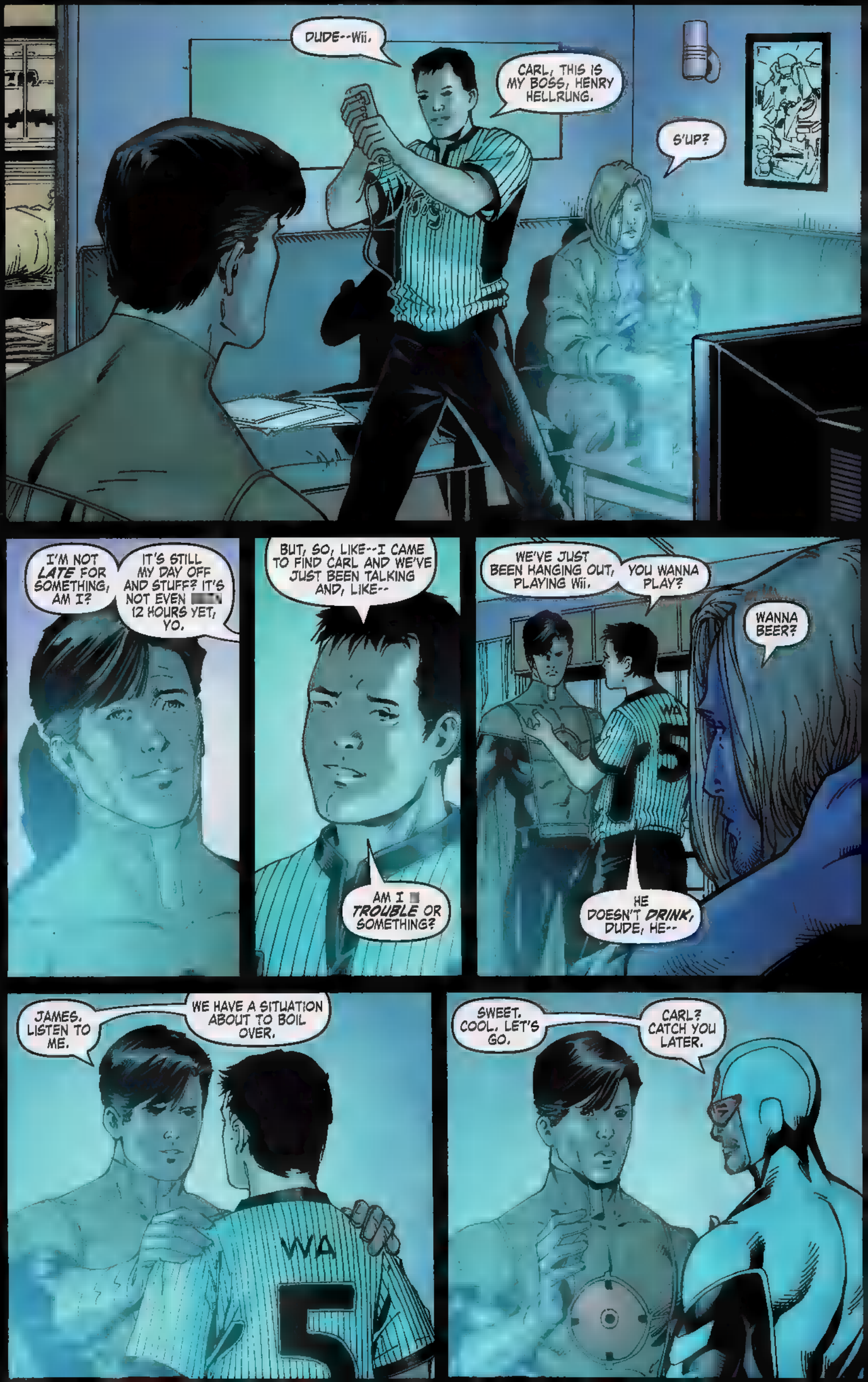
OLDSTYLE
SHUT THAT **(&#@ DOOR YA (*&(%^)(**)(*), UNLESS YOU *%^&%* WANT ME TO &^*(&)*) SHUT IT FOR YOU.
JAMAL PEOPLES.
TH' HELL?
MINT JULEP, BARKEEP.
JAMAL PEOPLES. YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO FIND.
YEAH, WELL, LOOK, MAN--
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT NO ORDER @#*#&, MAN. I SIGNED NINE KINDS OF N.D.A.S BEFORE THEY EVEN LET ME LEAVE THE BUILDING, MAN.
"TALK?" JAMAL, I'M THE M.A.N. [redacted] S.H.A.D.O.W. I ASSURE YOU, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS LISTEN TO WHATEVER DADDY ISSUES GETTING FIRED BY IRON MAN STIRRED UP IN YOU.
I WANT TO HIRE YOU, SON.
YOU PAY GOOD?
HELL NO. IT'S THE MILITARY. BUT IF YOU PLAY NICE, YOU MIGHT GET TO KILL HENRY KELLRUNG.
CHECKS
I'M IN.

HEY MAN. HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP?
I'M READING THE REPORTS AND-- EXOBIO OUTBREAKS, PERFORMANCE ISSUES, LOOKS LIKE THE CITY'S ON YOUR BACK--
I'M STRESSED. I'M STRESSY.
AND WE--WE MIGHT [redacted] MISSING A GUY?
YOU WHAT?
NO, NO, NOT LIKE THAT-- I MEAN, MAYBE LIKE THAT, BUT--
I GAVE HIM THE DAY OFF. AND HE, Y'KNOW. HE TOOK IT.
OH--OH. OH, OKAY. OKAY. SO HE JUST--
YOU DIDN'T REALLY GIVE HIM THE DAY OFF, YOU JUST SORTA--
YEAH, I DIDN'T--HE WAS GOING THROUGH A THING, AND I--
TONY, HOW DO YOU DO IT? HOW DO YOU MANAGE--
HOW DO YOU MANAGE A TEAM FULL OF DYNAMIC AND VOLATILE PERSONALITIES?
YOU JUST SORTA HERD 'EM WHERE YOU THINK THEY NEED TO BE AND PRAY. IT'S A GREAT [redacted] OF POWERLESSNESS AND UNMANAGEABILITY.
SPEAKING OF. YOU GOING TO ANY MEETINGS?
SURE. I'M IN MEETINGS ALL DAY LONG.
I GOTTA RUN--STARK OUT.
HM.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF MEETINGS I MEANT.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, LISTEN UP--
THIS IS OUR BEST GUESS AS TO WHAT'S HAPPENING, HOW, AND HOW WE CAN STOP IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
KEEP IN MIND TWO THINGS, IF YOU COULD: FIRST, ANY "HOW" OR "WHY" AT THIS POINT IN TIME WOULD BE WILDLY PREMATURE ON MY PART.
SECOND, THIS IS REALLY WEIRD AND FOR EVERY ANSWER WE'VE COME UP WITH, I HAVE NINE MORE I-DON'T-KNOWS RIGHT AFTER IT.
THESE MEN ARE--BY ANY MEDICAL DEFINITION--DEAD. RATE OF DECAY, PUTREFACTION, ALL CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HAPPENS TO A HUMAN CORPSE.
THE MULTIPLE ROBOTIC AND CYBERNETIC AUGMENTATIONS YOU SEE HAVE, IN EFFECT, REANIMATED THEM.
JAMES WAS RIGHT?!? THEY'RE ACTUALLY FRIGGIN' ZOMBIES?
SHH.
NOW, IN TERMS OF HOW THEY'RE OPERATED...
THE CYBERNETICS, ALONG WITH A HIGHLY PRESSURIZED COLLOIDAL GEL THAT FUNCTIONS AS A KIND OF HYDRAULIC BLOOD--YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED HOW EASILY THEY, AH, RUPTURED--
THEY ALL SEEM TO RESPOND TO CELLULAR SIGNALS, AND THE ANTENNAE MECHANISMS IN THEIR HEADS TEND TO BACK THAT UP.
ARE Y'ALL SAYIN' THESE THINGS ARE LIKE PHONES?

BASICALLY? THEY OPERATE THE SAME WAY. THEIR CONTROL SIGNAL WAS PIGGYBACKED ON THE CELLULAR BAND. SNEAKY.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A SECURE BROADCAST CHANNEL.
COULD WE FIND THE BROADCAST POINTS?
USE THE TOWERS TO TRIANGULATE A LOCATION FOR THE CONTROL SIGNAL'S ORIGIN, MAYBE?
WHAT ABOUT THE *MEN?* WHERE ARE THEY COMING UP WITH THESE *PEOPLE?*
ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE DEAD, MA'AM--BUT THE FEW WE'VE CHECKED OVER ARE ALL-- UH--HOMELESS GUYS. NOBODIES. NO FAMILIES, NOTHING.
A FEW WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH SERVICE RECORDS, FINGERPRINTS, TATTOOS, STUFF LIKE THAT.
THEN *THINK,* DAMMIT.
WE NEED TO BE LOOKING FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS OR CAMPS OR MISSIONS NEAR CELL TOWERS, RIGHT? WHAT'S RECEPTION LIKE DOWN ON *SKID ROW?*
WELL, *SKID ROW* IS DOWNTOWN, AND DOWNTOWN IS PRETTY NOTORIOUSLY ABANDONED, PRACTICALLY.
MERCY MISSION DOWN ON *SKID ROW* IS BETWEEN [redacted] CELL TOWER COVERAGE POINTS. WE'D RECOMMEND STARTING YOUR INVESTIGATION *THERE.* OTHERWISE, THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THEM WILL [redacted] TO BRING THE TOWERS *DOWN.*
SEVENTEEN HOURS TO STOP A GIANT WAVE OF ROBOT ZOMBIE HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM RUNNING RIOT OR [redacted] HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE CITY'S ENTIRE CELL NETWORK.
...
WHERE THE *HELL* IS JAMES?

I'LL BE DAMNED.
CAN YOU GOOD FOLKS POINT ME IN THE DIRECTION OF CARL CRENSHAW'S PLACE?
OVER THERE, SIR.
THANK YOU, MY GOOD MAN.
PLEASE LET MILO BE WRONG.
PLEASE LET MILO BE WRONG.
MR. CRENSHAW?
HELLO?
OH MY GOD.

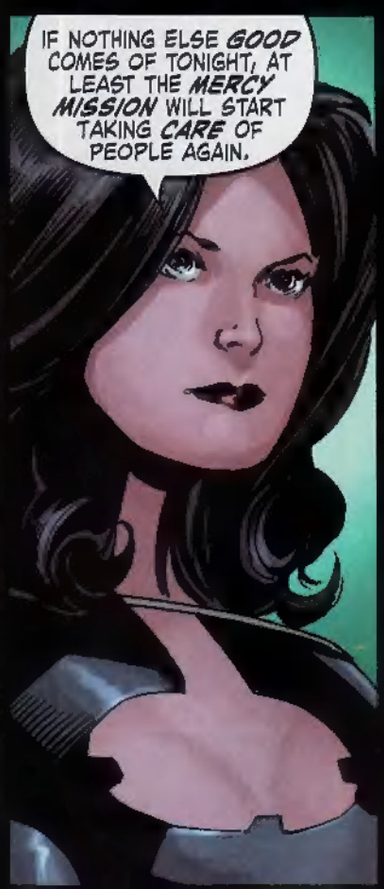

DUDE--Wii.
CARL, THIS IS MY BOSS, HENRY HELLRUNG.
S'UP?
I'M NOT LATE FOR SOMETHING, AM I?
IT'S STILL MY DAY OFF AND STUFF? IT'S NOT EVEN [redacted] 12 HOURS YET, YO.
BUT, SO, LIKE--I CAME TO FIND CARL AND WE'VE JUST BEEN TALKING AND, LIKE--
AM I [redacted] TROUBLE OR SOMETHING?
WE'VE JUST BEEN HANGING OUT, PLAYING Wii.
YOU WANNA PLAY?
WANNA BEER?
HE DOESN'T DRINK, DUDE, HE--
JAMES. LISTEN TO ME.
WE HAVE A SITUATION ABOUT TO BOIL OVER.
SWEET. COOL. LET'S GO.
CARL? CATCH YOU LATER.

MAIN TO ALAMEDA. THIRD TO SEVENTH. "SKID ROW."
IT'S SO OFFICIAL, EVEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OUT HERE HAS IT WRITTEN ON THE SIDE OF THEIR TRUCKS. ON THE SIDE OF THEIR TRUCKS, HENRY.
MAYBE AS MANY AS TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LIVING OUT HERE. SO WHY IS IT SO EMPTY?
SO I GUESS WHILE I FETCHED JAMES, YOU DID A LITTLE RESEARCH, HUH?
HOSPITALS KICK THE UNINSURED OUT OF THE E.R., STILL SICK, STILL IN THEIR GOWNS, AND DROP THEM OFF CURBSIDE. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO L.A.'S HOMELESS OUT HERE, HENRY?
BEST GUESS IS THAT THEY'RE WAR DRONES. DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SOLDIERS DYING IF THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.
I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL, BUT THERE IT IS.
AN ARMY, HENRY--AN ARMY OF MEN AND WOMEN TURNED INTO--INTO WHAT? WEAPONS? MACHINES?
WHOEVER WE'RE LOOKING FOR THOUGHT THAT, BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE WERE HOMELESS, THEY WERE LESS THAN HUMAN--AND THAT MEANT THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH IT.
I NEED YOU TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS.
MERCY MISSION
WHOEVER'S BEHIND THE OUTBREAKS HAS DECIDED IT'S ACCEPTABLE TO ROB THESE PEOPLE OF THEIR VERY HUMANITY, HENRY.
HANDLING THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I SIGNED UP FOR THE ORDER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

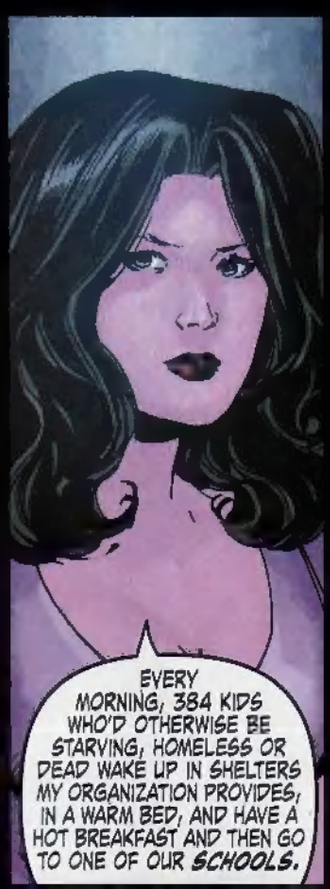
...
THEY'RE GONE.
STAND DOWN, ALL POINTS, REPEAT--STAND DOWN.
THEY'RE GONE, GUYS.
AW, MAN.
SO WHAT NOW, BOSSMAN?
WHO Y'ALL WANT US TO HIT?
I DON'T KNOW, ARALUNE.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.

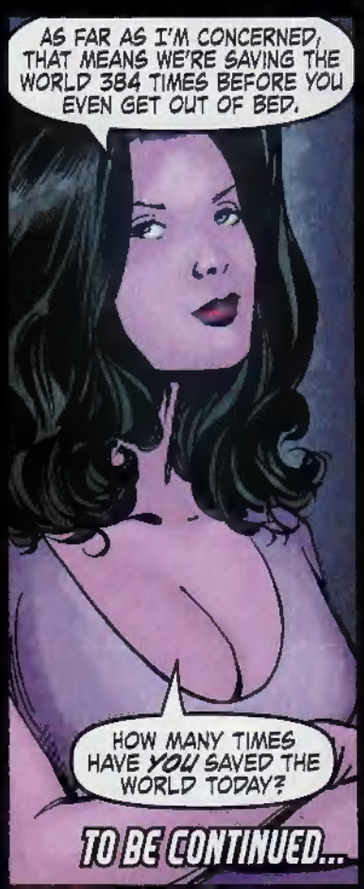
HENRY-- ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I JUST-- I'M GETTING TIRED OF HAVING TO CALL TONY ALL THE TIME.
I JUST SWEPT THE WHOLE BUILDING--ASIDE FROM A PRETTY ANGRY CAT WE'RE THE ONLY LIVING THINGS HERE. THERE ARE MORGUE SLABS DOWNSTAIRS.
YEAH.
BRING THE S.H.I.E.L.D. GUYS IN AND START TAKING IT ALL APART--FIGURE OUT HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO WHAT THEY DID. LET'S GET DIRECTOR STARK ON THE--
ANTHEM?
BELAY THAT ORDER TO CONTACT STARK.
THIS JUST GOT PERSONAL.
OHHH, CRAP. THE M.A.N. FROM S.H.A.D.O.W.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, DARLINGS.
SURE, THERE MIGHT BE A SPOOKY PARAMILITARY UNIT DECLARING WAR ON US BY TURNING THE HOMELESS INTO WAR DRONES, BUT...
I CALLED MY MONEY MANAGER AND BOUGHT THIS HORRIBLE PLACE.


IF NOTHING ELSE GOOD COMES OF TONIGHT, AT LEAST THE MERCY MISSION WILL START TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE AGAIN.

I CAN'T HAVE KIDS. I GOT SICK WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND--
DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN'T.


EVERY MORNING, 384 KIDS WHO'D OTHERWISE BE STARVING, HOMELESS OR DEAD WAKE UP IN SHELTERS MY ORGANIZATION PROVIDES, IN A WARM BED, AND HAVE A HOT BREAKFAST AND THEN GO TO ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS.


AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT MEANS WE'RE SAVING THE WORLD 384 TIMES BEFORE YOU EVEN GET OUT OF BED.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SAVED THE WORLD TODAY?
TO BE CONTINUED...

Team DCP
A World of Possibilities
Within our Grasp
Oroboros
KaiserSoze